

BSI-010US4



- 2 -

which vertices are connected (claim 56). Nevertheless, Applicants hereby provisionally elect securing means in the form of a suture as recited in claim 32. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that generic claims 54-56 should be held to be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua L. Cohen

Joshua L. Cohen, Reg. No. 38,040
Attorney for Applicants

JLC/lk

Dated: January 3, 2003

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

January 3, 2003

Linda M. Keller

TECHNOLOGY CENTER/R3700

JAN 09 2003

RECEIVED